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EXTENDS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

HOSPITALS, CLINICS IMPROVE FACILITIES -- Zeri i Popullit, No 283, 24 Nov 49

Between 1945 and 1949, 28 new rural hospitals with a capacity of 645 beds were built, and in the national hospitals the number of beds rose from 810 before the war to 2,400 in 1949. The total number of hospital beds in Albania has risen from 810 in 1938 to 1,705 in 1945, 2,460 in 1946, 3,355 in 1947, 4,420 in 1948, and 6,645 in 1949.

Before the war there were no institutions to combat tuberculosis, but now every large city in Albania has built dispensaries for tubercular patients, and there are three sanatoriums and three annexes, with a total capacity of about 875 beds, in Korce, Shkoder, and Tirana. Another new building having a capacity of 100 beds is being built in Tirana this year [1949].

Tuberculosis clinics in Tirana, Durrës, Elbasan, Shkoder, Berat, Vlone, Gjinokaster, and Korce diagnose tuberculosis in children, blue-collar and white-collar workers, and peasants. They are treated without charge in sanatoriums. In 1949 alone, 46,838,000 lek were allocated for the construction and maintenance of national sanatoriums.

The campaign against syphilis has been organized and systematized. A total of 4,301 cases are under treatment in the 53 venereal clinics and dispensaries in Albania.

After the war, 60 percent of the population was suffering from malaria. There were two antimalarial dispensaries in 1938, as compared with 36 today. The number of cases of malaria dropped from 60 percent of the population in 1938 to 40 percent in 1947 and 30.2 percent in 1948, and according to present indications, the 1949 figure will be only 20 percent.

The campaign for annual inoculation against typhoid and typhus has prevented the spread of epidemics of those diseases. Whereas in 1945 there was a severe epidemic of typhoid and typhus as the result of the war, at the end of 1949 there are only scattered cases. Most of the vaccines used in the immunization program

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were produced in the Bacteriological Laboratory in Tirana. The following table shows the development of this program:

<u>Immunizations Against</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Diphtheria	4,965	86,201	58,150	85,464	47,230
Smallpox	35,278	62,207	106,413	73,395	--
Typhoid		16,692	78,575	82,870	90,557
Typhus		6,794	33,299	--	5,713

The campaign for the benefit of mothers and children has resulted in legislation on marriage, families, and education, laws protecting pregnant working women, social security, compulsory maternity leave of 1½ months before and 1½ months after childbirth, and material assistance given to mothers for newborn babies.

There are now 11 maternity hospitals with 220 beds, and in every rural hospital, a total of 87 beds have been reserved for maternity cases. There are also 4 permanent nurseries with 260 beds, 4 preventoriums with 420 beds, 40 prenatal clinics, 9 pediatric clinics in large hospitals, and 12 day nurseries with a capacity of about 510 beds. Prenatal care is available as soon as a woman becomes pregnant.

Before the war, abandoned children were left in the streets, and the government paid no attention to them. Now, the law guarantees care to such children. The four permanent nurseries were intended to support 250 children but are crowded with hundreds of children rescued from death and abandonment.

The number of beds in nurseries and orphanages increased from none in 1945 and 1946 to 150 in 1947, 350 in 1948, and 760 in 1949.

This year, the Council of Ministers of Albania provided that all infants of one to 3 years, without exception, and all pregnant and nursing mothers should be provided with the proper food. Today, all infants of one to 3 years are provided with special food and milk, meat, rice, flour, etc.

The four preventoriums, in Vlone, Shkoder, Sarande, and Pogradec, treat hundreds of children for 2 or 3 months for general bodily weakness, lymphatic anemia, etc. This year, another 100-bed preventorium is being opened in Durres.

The pharmacies have been nationalized. The government's plan provides for supplies of drugs from the USSR and the other people's democracies. With optical equipment obtained from the USSR, Albania has established enough optical stores to satisfy the essential everyday needs of workers requiring glasses and other optical goods.

The Pharmaceutical Laboratory is the basis of the Albanian drug industry. It now produces tens of pharmaceutical items required in Albania. With the tools that are to be imported for the laboratory during the current Two-Year Plan, still more items that are not available now can be produced, and a great many of the medicinal plants that grow in Albania can be exploited.

In November 1944, Albania had only 136 male and female nurses, 32 midwives, 4 laboratory technicians, and 6 public health officers. Since then, five schools of nursing have graduated 549 new nurses, a 2-year school for midwives has trained 57 graduates, and courses in various schools have produced 154 health officers, 74 laboratory technicians, 17 X-ray technicians, 93 nursery attendants, and 91 directors of antimalarial work. Today, no community in Albania is without a nurse, and every district has one or two midwives. Last year, the first 3-year school in Albania for medical aid was opened, and 122 medical students are pursuing higher studies abroad. -- Eleni Terzi, Deputy Minister of Health

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600,000 LEK FOR NEW HOSPITAL -- Dielli, No 5916, 22 Feb 50

Tirana -- Construction was begun at the end of 1949 on a new seven-room hospital in the village of Gline, near Gjinokaster, beside the mineral springs. It is to be completed in February 1950.

The Ministry of Health will spend a total of 600,000 lek on this project.

KORCE FIGHTS TB WITH STREPTOMYCIN -- Dielli, No 5913, 1 Feb 50

A dispatch from Tirana, dated 10 January 1950, reports that 384 patients were admitted to the tuberculosis sanatorium in Korce during 1949. Of this number, 345 were discharged with good prospects of recovery, including 211 who took streptomycin and were cured.

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